



**WisDOT/WI Urban and Rural Transit Association Meeting  
Wednesday, October 6, 2004, 12:00-1:00pm  
Wisconsin Council for the Blind Offices  
Madison, WI**

People in attendance

Casey Newman, WisDOT, BOP  
Rod Clark, WisDOT, BTLR  
Doug Dalton, WisDOT, BOP  
Sandy Beauprè, WISDOT, BOP  
Gary Goyke, WURTA

1. Overview of WisDOT's meeting purpose and WisDOT's long-range plan, *Connections 2030*, by WisDOT staff: The meeting began at 10:30. In his role as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council for the Blind, Gary Goyke already received the outreach presentation on the plan. In the interest of time Gary agreed to skip the presentation and move into a discussion of issues of importance to WURTA.

2. Gathering of input from WURTA: Discussion focused on the following issues:

a. Funding

Stable and predictable funding is the primary issue for WURTA. The current operating and capital programs need to be maintained and the current funding structure in tier B and C (smaller fixed route systems and shared-ride taxi) should be re-evaluated.

Providing local communities the authority to implement local options sales taxes would be helpful, but WURTA is more concerned the possible impacts of the "Tax Payer's Bill of Rights" (TABOR).

Work needs to continue to improve methods of pooling existing federal and state resources available for transit (primarily on the social services side) to address long-term E&D needs.

b. Research

Research efforts at the state level are critical for transit systems to:

- Continue to identify the benefits of transit (economic and social)
- To identify viable technologies to increase the efficiency of transit service in the state

The results of the research are often used by transit managers to better "tell the story" of transit and continue to secure local funds for transit operations.

c. Long-Term Service Issues

Transit managers would benefit from the development of tools/analysis to identify the appropriate type and level of service. This “look” has to be regional in nature, which is typically beyond the scope of transit managers in the state.

This effort is particularly important as transit systems begin to feel the impact of the aging baby boomer population and the increased need for new ways to provide elderly and disabled transit to the first generation of people that have driven since they were in their teens.

d. Performance Measures

All transit systems utilize performance measures for their annual reviews that are part of state law in Wisconsin. WURTA would like to see similar measures put in place for other modes of transportation.

e. Operational Structure

WURTA is comfortable with the current local/state arrangement for providing transit service in Wisconsin. The current methods to develop and implement regional entities are adequate.

f. Other Comments

23 counties in the state currently have no public transit. Informal groups, such as churches, handle transit needs. WURTA is concerned about the issue of elderly isolation and is working to improve the understanding of the importance of transit in the rural areas in the future. Any assistance the department could provide in this area would be appreciated.